



City Administrator's Report

May 2003

Dear Reader,

This monthly report provides summary information and updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings:

May 6, 20, 27

Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

May 2 - May 6

Cinco de Mayo (American and Mexican national flags)

May 6 - May 13

Planned Parenthood

May 13 - May 23

Bike Week

May 23 - June 3

Memorial Day (American flags)

Community Events:

May 3-4

Cinco de Mayo Festival - De la Guerra Plaza, Saturday,
11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

May 10

Tour of Charles Meyer Desalination facility, 9:00 a.m.,
525 E. Yanonali Street

May 11

Wheels and Waves (classic hotrods and motorcycles show) -
State Street between Micheltorena and Haley Streets,
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 17-May 25

Bike Week

May 20

Bike-to-School Day

May 21

Bike-to-Work Day

May 24-May 26

I Madonnari Festival - Santa Barbara Mission, 10:00 a.m.
- 6:00 p.m.

May 26

Memorial Day holiday

May 31

Tour of Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden, 10:00 a.m.

May 31 - June 1

Santa Barbara Irish Festival - Oak Park, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

City Administrator

Councilmembers Folayemi and Secord recovering from surgery

Councilmember Babatunde Folayemi is recovering at home from surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Councilmember Dr. Dan Secord is recovering from emergency surgery for a fall at City Hall. He has participated in City Council and Finance Committee meetings by teleconferencing. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Budget public hearings and presentations

The first of six public hearings on the *Recommended Fiscal Year 2004 Operating and Capital Budget* was held at the Council's meeting on Tues., April 29. Finance Department staff presented an overview of the recommended General Fund operating and capital budget. During May and June, the Council will hold five more public hearings, with each City department making presentations on their respective budgets. Budget adoption occurs June 24. The dates and times of the remaining public hearings and departmental presentations are:

May 6	Overview of Special & Enterprise Funds Performance Measurement Program	6:00 p.m.
May 20	Airport Waterfront	2:00 p.m.
May 27	Community Development Public Works	6:00 p.m.
June 3	Fire Police	2:00 p.m.
June 3	Parks and Recreation Library	6:00 p.m.
June 10	Finance City Administrator City Attorney Administrative Services	6:00 p.m.

Employees sound off to cut costs

A few weeks ago we encouraged employees to submit ideas to reduce costs. We received over ninety suggestions. The City thanks everyone who shared their ideas. All suggestions are being evaluated.

Survey says ...

In March, 50 City staffers learned how to develop and conduct surveys to receive City program customer feedback. Several external and internal surveys are planned this year. On May 9, Santa Barbara City College Professor Darin Garard will meet with individuals or groups currently developing surveys. Sign up for an appointment by contacting Mindy Jackson, 564-5305.

State budget update

On April 30, State lawmakers from both Houses passed a collection of urgency bills that make up a \$3.6 billion budget-reduction package. The Governor is reported as willing to sign it. While the current proposal does not include cuts to city revenues or direct city programs, we could be affected later when the final State budget is approved.

What's on City-TV, Channel 18 - *Inside Santa Barbara*

May episode features: South Coast Community Indicators annual report rates South Coast economic, social, and environmental status; City's more user-friendly public art review guidelines; how City Fire Department is reducing wildfire hazards in the foothills; and Santa Barbara teens educate their peers on preventing drug and alcohol abuse - Premieres Wed., May 7 at 6:30 p.m. on City-TV, Channel 18 and replays each Mon., 8:00 p.m.; Tues., 5:00 p.m.; Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Sat., 9:00 p.m.; Sun. at 10:30 p.m. New episode airs each month.

Airport Department

Passenger survey

In May, *InfoVision Systems* is administering a survey of departing passengers. Passenger surveys occur at least every other year at the Airline Terminal to determine customer satisfaction and travel trends. This year's goal is 400 – 600 completed questionnaires, to assist Airport staff in data collection for the P³ Performance Measurement Program.

New airline at SBA

Beginning July 1, Horizon Air, the sister airline of Alaska Airlines, begins non-stop service to Seattle and Portland from Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) aboard new, 70-passenger regional jets. SBA currently is served by America West Express, American Eagle, Delta Connection and United Express, with 40 daily non-stop departures to seven major international airports: Denver, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and San Jose.

SBA "Airport Influence Area"

The State has asked Santa Barbara Association of Governments to define an "Airport Influence Area" for each airport in the County. Based on each area's boundaries, affected property owners will be required to notify buyers and lessees when selling or leasing their property. In part, the notice would state, "...the property may be subject to some of the annoyances or inconveniences associated with proximity to airport operations (for example: noise, vibration, or odors)." Public workshop on the Santa Barbara Airport influence area is set for Tues., May 20, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Airport Administration, 601 Firestone Rd., Santa Barbara. Information: Airport Director Karen Ramsdell, 967-7111.

SkyWest Airlines

SkyWest Airlines, which operates SBA's United Express service to Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose, received recognition by the U.S. Department of Transportation as the number one on-time domestic carrier in the nation for February 2003. SkyWest employs 120 people for their Santa Barbara operation, which served 6,300+ passengers in February. SkyWest celebrates 20 years serving SBA this summer.

Easy Lift Transportation relocates to SBA

In March, Easy Lift Transportation moved their operation to 53-D Gerald Cass Place at the Airport, from the Westside Community Center. New lease includes a 1500+ square foot office building and adjacent parking for their 20+ fleet vehicles. Established in the late 1970s, non-profit Easy Lift transports 70,000+ elderly and disabled persons annually.

Community Development Department

State Street crosswalk replacement

On April 16, the Redevelopment Agency and Public Works Department began a six-week project to replace deteriorated tile crosswalks with brick pavers in the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street, and at the intersection of State and Cabrillo. Over the years, broken and missing crosswalk tiles have been replaced with asphalt patches, creating an eyesore and potential safety hazard that take away from the pedestrian-friendly experience of State Street and the waterfront.

Sidewalks will remain open to pedestrians throughout the project. However, the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street will be closed to vehicle traffic for up to three weeks during construction. The State and Cabrillo intersection will have at least one lane of traffic open in all directions for the project's duration. New crosswalks will improve overall aesthetics of the area and resolve safety concerns associated with the heavily damaged tiles. Project completion is expected by Memorial Day.

At the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be discussing and considering a number of important issues this month, including:

- Housing Element Update on May 1 and May 15
- Draft EIR Public Hearing for the Riviera Campus proposal
- EIR Scoping Hearing for the Wildland Fire Management Plan

Carrillo Hotel construction

Developers of the Carrillo Hotel announced last week that they have secured full financing for the project and hope to begin construction in June. The item still requires a finding of substantial conformance for their construction mitigation plan, and goes before the Planning Commission in late May.

\$3.6 million in St. Vincent's funding released

St. Vincent's Affordable Housing Development -- involving the construction of 170 apartments for very low- and low-income seniors and families near Highway 154 and Calle Real -- has entered the pre-development funding phase. The Redevelopment Agency has begun releasing funds totaling \$3.6 million to finance the project through final design and permit issuance, with construction start scheduled for mid-2004. Total funding commitment from the Redevelopment Agency is \$10.6 million. The County has committed \$3 million. Total project cost exceeds \$40 million.

Coastal Commission continues City's rezoning request

At their April 10 meeting in Santa Barbara, the California Coastal Commission continued the City's request to rezone the interior waterfront area (a.k.a. the "Funk Zone"). The City's proposal would re-zone the interior area bounded by State Street, Montecito Street, Garden Street and Cabrillo Boulevard, disallowing hotels, and allowing a broader variety of ocean commercial uses. Modifying residential zoning was not proposed, but was the central discussion issue. Some Commissioners hope to limit residential development in the area. City Council will consider that discussion at their May 27 meeting, and give direction to staff before the item returns to the Coastal Commission in July. Information: City Planner Bettie Hennon, 564-5470.

Finance Department

Transient occupancy tax

March transient occupancy tax (TOT) collected in April was down approximately 10.2% from the prior fiscal year (see table). We are still above budget - we only need to grow 1.4% to meet budget this year and we are up 2.3% year-to-date. However, City Staff estimated we would end the year with a 3.5% growth rate, so we are now behind our previous year-end projections. Hotels and motels reported no anomalies in the March, i.e. no particular hotel or area declined significantly. Almost all were down across the board. Hotel managers and controllers were not optimistic about a near-future turnaround. They noted that the national economic slowdown and the Iraq conflict have negatively impacted occupancies, conference, and short-term visitor bookings. One controller added, however, that they were faring much better than other hotels in the State that were down as much as 50%.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year
July	\$1,204,593	11.3%	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%
Aug	\$1,246,973	7.9%	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%
Sept	\$952,314	14.1%	\$808,657	-15.1%	\$849,174	5.0%
Oct	\$839,946	3.7%	\$790,919	-5.8%	\$830,054	4.9%
Nov	\$691,398	13.2%	\$653,829	-5.4%	\$684,776	4.7%
Dec	\$594,145	16.2%	\$539,598	-9.2%	\$529,694	-1.8%
Jan	\$578,703	9.4%	\$511,090	-11.7%	\$583,413	14.2%
Feb	\$628,764	9.4%	\$611,322	-2.8%	\$616,824	0.9%
Mar	\$769,047	5.6%	\$783,829	1.9%	\$704,094	-10.2%

FY 2004 budget and Budget-At-A-Glance online and on CD

The *Recommended Fiscal Year 2004 Operating and Capital Budget* was filed with the City Council on April 8. The budget document and the City's popular "Budget-at-a-Glance" brochure are both available on the City's Web site. Copies of the budget document on CD-ROM are available from the City's Finance Department in City Hall.

Fire Department

Structure fire

On April 7, the Santa Barbara Fire Department responded to a structure fire at Castillo and De la Guerra Streets. The unoccupied, single-family residence sustained major damage. The fire's cause is still under investigation.

Rapid intervention

On April 21-23, the Fire Department conducted rapid intervention training in the vacant Betty's Fabrics store on State Street. The drill involved the entire Department over a three-day period.

Emergency Operations Center

On April 28, the Fire Department participated in a County-wide Emergency Operations Center tabletop exercise for all risk events.

Congressional visit

In April, Congresswoman Lois Capps visited the Fire Department's training grounds and toured the new hazardous materials vehicle. Capps affirmed her commitment to supporting the Department's grant application for FEMA and Homeland Security Funds.

Library Department

Summer Reading Program at I Madonnari Festival

Youth Services staff will create a chalk painting to promote the Library's Summer Reading Program at this year's I Madonnari Festival at the Santa Barbara Mission. The chalk drawing will introduce the theme, "Reading Road Trip U.S.A." for the children's Summer Reading Program, which runs from June 16 through August 11.

Web site use at new high

Community use of Library services via the City's Internet site continues to grow. March saw a new monthly record of 40,324 visits to the Library catalog, monthly calendar of events, online reference sources, and other information searches. Library users are logging in from home, school, or work to reserve or renew materials, check account status, or ask a reference question.

Parks and Recreation Department

Bohnett Park Restoration Project

The City received five construction bids for the Old Mission Creek at Bohnett Park Restoration Project that was advertised in early April. The \$514,756 low bid was submitted by Elevation Engineering, which currently is constructing improvements to the municipal golf course and the City's annex yard. Approval of the construction contract for the project is scheduled for May 20 at City Council. Pending approval, construction begins June 9.

Parma Open Space Management Guide

Parks and Recreation Department has created the "Parma Open Space Resource Management Guide." The in-house guide was written by Natural Areas Planner Allyson Biskner, to provide an inventory of resources at Parma Park, and assist in developing future action plans for resource protection, restoration, and interpretation. The guide will be used to develop future work plans submitted to the Parma Park Trust for funding, and may serve as a model in developing resource management guides for other open space areas.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

On April 23, 2003, Park and Recreation Commission approved a recommendation to forward to the City Council a proposal to adopt a resolution to develop a City-wide IPM strategy. IPM is a pest management strategy for long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems having

minimal impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms. The resolution will be on the June Council agenda. A multi-departmental committee will be formed to develop a strategy to be implemented by December 30, 2003. The IPM resolution will require annual reporting procedures, training programs, and public education outreach procedures which most City departments have been practicing for several years.

Spencer Adams Park

The new artificial, all-weather, low-maintenance bowling green installed at Spencer Adams Lawn Park gives the club year-round quality play, and is the only one of its kind in Santa Barbara.

Parks and Recreation Web site

The Department has launched both the Parks and Creeks Division sections of their Web site. The Parks' site contains a City Parks map that pinpoints 55 of the City's parks and sports facilities on a City map linked to a photo and brief description of each location. In addition, any park site with reservable areas links directly to the facilities component in eRecreation, where users can read about features and capacities of the site, and search for available dates. Other components include information on volunteer opportunities and the Park Ranger program. Still in development are sections on street trees, pesticide use and IPM practices, policies, and partner links. The Creeks' Web pages include content on water quality, creek restoration, events and outreach, business programs, creek facts and partner links. Tour the expanded site at www.sbparksandrecreation.com.

Summer camp parents using eRecreation

Summer camp enrollments made online at eRecreation totaled 424 (at \$69,725); a nearly 50% increase over last year. In-person registrations at Franklin School totaled 423 (at \$66,748). Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Camp Registration Day was April 12.

City pools

To maintain safe and healthy swimming facilities, improvements at three pools—Oak Park Wading Pool, West Beach Wading Pool, and Ortega Park Wading Pool—will take place prior to the opening of summer swim season. At Oak Park, the City will replace fencing; the pool deck and circulation equipment will be replaced after summer season ends. West Beach Wading Pool gets a new fiberglass shell. Ortega Park Wading Pool will be permanently closed due to prohibitive costs to bring this facility up-to-date, but the instructional pool will remain open. For up-to-date pool opening schedules: Aquatics Office, 897-2680.

Community Center

With the relocation of Easy Lift Transportation from the Westside Community Center to the airport property, Community Services is advertising the availability of 992 square feet of office space for use by a local nonprofit. Current annual lease rate is \$.91/sf. Contact Community Services Supervisor Antonio Velasquez, 963-7567.

Creeks program annual report

The second *Annual Creeks Program Report*, written in English and Spanish, was distributed on April 17 in The Santa Barbara Independent, and on April 19 in the Santa Barbara News-Press. Discussed are key program goals and program activities in 2002. Copies are available at City Hall and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Creeks Division has launched Phase I of its Web site : www.sbcreeks.com, with links to Program reports and Advisory Committee meeting agendas.

Oak Park Festival season begins

The Jewish Festival kicked off the annual Oak Park Festival 2003 season on April 27. For more information: www.sbjf.org. The next festival will be the Irish Festival, May 31 - June 1, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.: www.santabarbarairishfestival.com. The season will feature eight festivals altogether. Parking in the Oak Park neighborhood can be a challenge, so for shuttle information, see www.sbmtd.gov.

Hilda Ray House available to rent by qualified City employees

City Parks and Recreation Department seeks rental applicants for Hilda Ray House, 1420 Kenwood Drive. Apply by May 15, 5:00 p.m. to the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 620 Laguna Street, contact Terri Yamada. Permanent or temporary City employees may apply if they meet the following HUD income requirements:

Maximum Income:

<u>1 person</u>	<u>2 persons</u>	<u>3 persons</u>	<u>4 persons</u>
\$33,900	\$38,800	\$43,650	\$48,500

Monthly Rent: \$905/month (tenant pays all utilities). This is a month-to-month rental.

Hilda Ray House (3 bedrooms; 1 bathroom) is adjacent to Hilda Ray Park, with housing made possible through the City Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. Renters required to maintain renters insurance (HO-4). NO PETS ALLOWED

Contact: Terri Yamada, 564-5484 or email tyamada@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us

Police Department

War protests

The weekly Saturday war protests continued through April. The crowds have been getting smaller each week, allowing the Police Department to minimize the number of officers assigned to monitor the events. The events will now be monitored by on-duty personnel, eliminating the need to call in officers on overtime to police the protests.

Homicide arrests

On April 19, Officer Rullman heard gunfire while patrolling Laguna and Ortega Streets, and saw a suspect running away. Entering the senior housing parking lot, he saw a 23 year-old victim on the ground, who expired at the scene. Other officers responded, and Officer Velasco located and arrested the fleeing suspect. Subsequent investigation by detectives identified three additional men involved in the case, and they all were arrested. Investigation continues with initial indicators showing gang ties.

Arrest at Adobe Motel

On April 4, officers responded to a call about a man with a gun at the Adobe Motel, 26 East Haley Street. The suspect, a resident of the motel, had carelessly waved a handgun at another resident, uttering threats. SWAT, Crisis Negotiation Response Team took action when the suspect refused to exit his room and surrender. After seven hours of attempted negotiation, teargas was deployed into the room and the suspect immediately surrendered. The 51 year-old man was charged with brandishing a handgun and making terrorist threats. No one was injured in the incident.

Public Works Department**City's sewer system**

"Trenchless" technology is a new approach to sewer main rehabilitation being implemented by the City's Water Resources Division. Structural integrity of deteriorated sewers is restored without excavating in the street to remove and replace deteriorated sewers. Benefits include lower cost, minimal traffic disruption, and better sewer service for City customers. Beginning in May, approximately six miles of sewer main will be rehabilitated throughout the City, costing \$1,557,000. Ninety percent of the work will employ trenchless technology. This project has the lowest per-foot sewer replacement cost in 15 years.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)

A traffic calming plan was ratified by the representatives of the Lower Riviera/Upper Eastside neighborhood on March 16, 2003. Plan improvements are proposed to reduce speeding problems on Garden, Alta Vista, Valerio, Grand, Laguna, Loma, Oramas, California, and Micheltorena Streets. During April and May, residents living in the NTMP Pilot Project area are canvassing the neighborhood to get property owner approval. A 65% approval rating will constitute acceptance of the plan, making it eligible for Council adoption.

Bike Week

Bicycle Commuter classes are offered the evenings of May 14 and 15. Bike-to-Work Day is May 21; Bike-to-School Day is May 20. Employer Contest starts May 5. The more you commute by bike this month, the better your chances to win. Sign up for the public agency contest and to learn more details about events going on all week, at www.sbbike.com. Questions or to help: Mobility Coordinator Dru van Hengel, 564-5544.

New City bicycle fleet

The City is adding bicycles to the general fleet. Bicycles available for use by employees traveling to meetings within and outside of City buildings will be housed at Parks and Recreation Department, City Hall, and Downtown Parking. Suited for use in business attire, the bikes have chainguards, generator lights, lock, bell, rear rack, basket, and fenders. Free helmets are provided to staffers who take our bicycle safety class, and are also available for general use. Questions: Mobility Coordinator Dru van Hengel, 564-5544.

Water Awareness Month

May 2003 is Water Awareness Month throughout California. Local events:

Tour of Charles Meyer Desalination Facility

Date/Time: May 10; 9:00 a.m.
Location: 525 E. Yanonali Street

Tour of Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden

Date/Time: May 31; 10:00 a.m.
Location: Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden

Meet at the corner of Santa Barbara and Micheltorena Streets. Information on
Water Awareness Month: Water Resources Specialist Alison Jordan, 564-5574.

Waterfront Department

Smoking at Stearns Wharf

Due to the frequency of cigarette fires on Stearns Wharf, the City Fire Chief determined that a smoking restriction is necessary. Rather than an outright smoking prohibition, Waterfront staff in consultation with the Fire Department and supported by Wharf merchants, developed smoking restrictions for Stearns Wharf. Designated smoking areas on the Wharf are: 1. Harbor Restaurant; 2. Cannon; 3. Moby Dick Restaurant; and 4. Seaward finger. Each designated smoking area will have a sign, ashtrays, and deck markings indicating that smoking is permitted in that area. Fire suppression measures such as a fire extinguisher or hose will be located nearby, and the wharf deck will be treated with fire resistant materials. Smoking will be prohibited in all other areas of Stearns Wharf.

Wharf maintenance and repair

Schock-Hanly Construction will complete this year's Wharf Annual Maintenance and Repair Contract by May 16, 2003. Next week, the company will complete the new facial stringers and hand railing. Heavy timber construction will follow with replacement of 22" deck boards on the main roadway, bull rails, and a new splice pile under the Harbor Restaurant, and cutting and removing six old, underwater piles to finish the project. Waterfront Department spends approximately \$300,000 annually on pile replacement, deck boards, stringer repairs, and heavy timber construction.

Administrative Services

Current Job Openings

Open Recruitments

Office Specialist II	Continuous
Senior Office Specialist	Continuous
Recreation Supervisor - Aquatics	Apply by May 2, 2003

Promotional Recruitments

Assistant Planner	Apply by May 9, 2003
Lead Park Ranger	Apply by May 16, 2003